

APPLICANT(S): KRAUSZ, Eliezer et al.
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Claim 8 has been objected to.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 have been amended. Some of the amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity alone and are not made for purposes of patentability or to overcome rejections based on the prior art. No new matter has been added.

Claim 9 has been newly added.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the existing claims and the new claim add no new matter.

Remarks to the Abstract

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract due to the phrase "The present invention relates to." The phrase and other legal phraseology have been removed.

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Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 8 because of alleged informalities. Claim 8 has been amended in order to cure these informalities. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,950,683 (Henderson, et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Henderson discloses:

A pipe repair assembly for sealing leaks in pipelines that transmit oil, chemicals, steam and the like, is disclosed. The assembly is in the form of a two-part sleeve which forms an enclosure or box over a section of leaking pipe. The sleeve includes a pre-fitted sealing jacket to provide a snug fit over the pipe contour. Optionally, the assembly may have a channel or groove transverse to the longitudinal axis of the sleeve and spaced inwardly of the ends of the sleeves for receiving a floating metal ring and a ring of sealant material. The floating ring, sealant ring and sealing jacket are all compressed when bolts connecting the two parts of the sleeve are secured.

In the teaching of the Henderson reference, the sealant material jacket 24 “maybe manufactured from a variety of materials although Kevlar™ fibres mixed with silicon sealant would be one that would be commonly used . . .” (Henderson, col. 3 lines 20-23). Therefore, it is clear that the fibers of the Henderson reference are not arranged in any particular direction.

Amended claim 1 recites that the reinforcing material is “coaxial with said pipe clamp or coupling” thereby inhibiting axial expansion. It is respectfully submitted that having the reinforcing materials coaxial with the pipe clamp is nowhere to be found in the Henderson reference, nor would it have been obvious to make it such in light of the prior art of record.

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on Henderson. Moreover, insofar as claims 2-8 are dependent on claim 1, these, too are novel and not obvious in light of the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of claims 1-8.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Henderson in view of US Patent No. 4,409,708 (Hauffe) or US Patent No. 4,708,373 (Morriss). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 6-8 for the reasons stated above, including that none of the references of record, including Hauffe and Morriss disclose having the reinforcing materials coaxial with the pipe clamp, as recited in amended claim 1, nor would it have been obvious to modify the references of record in this manner.

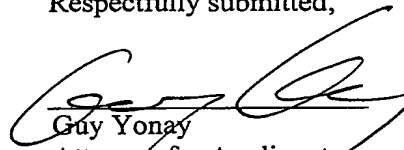
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 05-0649.

Respectfully submitted,


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